ISSUES AND CHALLENGES OF SINGLE MOTHERS: A SOCIOLOGICAL STUDY WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO KANPUR CITY

A

Synopsis

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Introduction

In Indian society, women are considered as goddesses, but then also from history to the present society, women are facing various ups and downs in their status. The status of women in ancient India was quite high esteemed; however, it gets deteriorate with the time and the mentality of people towards women. The status of women in the Vedic period (known as the golden period of our history) was good. The place of women was higher than men, and they have respect and honor. They were completely free to decide their path in life. However, later to the Vedic period, the condition of women started declining, and many evils emerged in Indian society, e.g. Sati system, child marriage, restrictions on widow remarriage, etc. This declined women's status. From Manu Smriti, women are considered lower than men and an object of house. There was no improvement in the status of women till the Mughal period, but as the British period started, little improvement brought in the status of women upward. After independence, many constitutional rights were provided to women to raise their status.

In the modern period, women have all rights related to all spheres of life. However, due to wide corruption, traditional and social norms and weak implementation of the laws and schemes, many of these rights remain only on the papers, especially for poor and illiterate people. It seems that despite having rights. Single parenthood is a phenomenon that has always been in existence and is as old as mankind. According to Dowd Nancy (1997), a single parent is a parent, not living with a spouse or partner, who has most of the day-to-day responsibilities in raising the child or children.

There has been a drastic increase in the number of single-parent families in the recent past following medical advancement such as Artificial Reproductive Technologies (ART), in vitro fertilization IVF and surrogacy, as well as lifestyle choices to remain single or unmarried, and other reasons such as divorce, widowhood, and flexible single parent adoption regulations, among others.

Historically, the death of a partner was a common cause of single parenting. At certain times wars might also deprive significant numbers of families of a parent. Improvements in sanitation and maternal care have decreased mortality for those of reproductive age, making death a less common cause of single parenting.

Single-parent families may be defined as “A family comprising of a single mother or father having their dependent children.” The single-parent family is created in several ways, the death of one parent, divorce, separation, and neglect.

Parenting is an art where both father and mother work collectively to help their children for survival and independence. In the present scenario, the task of parenting is a difficult one. In order to provide a quality life to children, both parents invest their maximum time, effort, and resources into the task of parenting. However, nurturing children single-handedly is a difficult process both financially and psychologically. Single mothers often found themselves in anguish and distress due to a lack of support from family and society.

The role of a single parent is not an easy one, especially when women head the family. The difficulty of a single mother is related to the upbringing of children, their future, and setting down in life. Till the time children get married and or get jobs, they are dependent on the single parent.

A single mother is, who has a dependent child or dependent children and who is widowed, divorced, or unmarried. As a single mother, she has sacrificed her social and financial independence. Even a single mother feels bitter about her marital loss. They carry many responsibilities on our shoulders as mothers. They faced problems like social, emotional, and economic. The financial problem was the main stressor for the majority of single mothers will feel lonely, helpless, hopeless, lack of identity, and lack of confidence. These stresses lead to different mental health problems like depression among single mothers.

The problem of single mothers: - Single mothers have to face several challenges in their life which can be described as mental health issues, financial hardships, live in a low-income area, and receive low levels of social support.

Legal Acts of single mother

Article21 The wife has a fundamental right under the Constitution of India (Right to Life), to use any name including her married one.

The guardian and ward Act. 1890 This act specifically serves to define guardianship relationships between adults and minors, as well as between people of all ages and their respective property.

Hindu law 1956 under this law, a mother, is also a deemed natural guardian in the absence of the father.

Special rights to single mother: -Honorable Supreme court of India held some rights especially to single mother, which are as follows: -

- Right to privacy of the mother.
- Right to the child to know the identity of his/her parents
- The SC, in a landmark 1999 judgment, spelled out a situation where a mother, too, would be a natural guardian: if the father is indifferent to the child.
- An independent mother can raise her child, and the legal recognition of a deserting father is not required.
- Application for issuance of a birth certificate by an unwed mother.
- As per the judgment, the mother is the sole legal guardian of the child without the permission of the father (unwed mother).

Operationalization of the concept

Single Mother: Women who are parenting in the absence of a biological father in the home may be doing so because of divorce, marital separation, widowhood, termination of a cohabiting relationship, the breakup of a short-term or long-term non cohabiting relationship, or from sperm donation to a heterosexual woman or a woman in a two-parent lesbian relationship.

Theoretical Framework

The study will employ three theoretical frameworks, including Resilience theory, Attachment theory, and the Psychoanalytical theory.

Resiliency Theory: Norman Garmezy (1991) was the lead researcher in project competence one of the landmark studies in the field of resilience. Garmezy defines resilience as not necessarily impervious to stress rather, resilience is designed to reflect the capacity for recovery and maintained adaptive behavior they may follow initial retreat or incapacity upon the resilience theory suggests through the use of inborn coping mechanism individuals are able to overcome adversities inside their lines. Resilience is defined as the capacity of an individual to withstand or recover from significant risk and still be able to function effectively.

Attachment Theory: John Bowlby (1960) in his theory he has described the dynamics of long-term and short-term interpersonal relationships between humans. He further mentioned that this theory addresses only specific facet. How human beings respond in relationships when hurt, separated from loved ones; or perceiving the threat. Simply attachment theory means the secure attachment between parent and child makes parenting easier and supports parent/child; intimacy.

Psychoanalytical Theory: Sigmund Freud (1890) for his significant contribution to the field of psychology Freud is considered as the father of psychoanalysis. His theory explains human behavior he has implies that the human psyche is by nature pleasure-seeking. in his theory he has described that certain aspects of your personality are more primal and might pressure you to act upon your most basic urge. Other parts of personality work to counteract these urges and strive to make you conform to the demands of reality.

The patriarchy theory: A patriarchy, from the ancient Greek *patriarches*, was a society where power was held by and passed down through the elder males. When modern historians and sociologists describe a "patriarchal society," they mean that men hold the positions of power and have more privilege: head of the family unit, leaders of social groups, boss in the workplace, and heads of government.

Sir Henry Maine (1861) is the chief advocate of the patriarchal theory. He defines it as theory of the origin of society in separate families, held together by the authority and protection of the eldest male descendant. The patriarchal theory traces the origin of the state in a patriarchal family.

A patriarchal family is one in which descent is traced through males. Father or patriarch occupies a dominant position in the family. All the members of the family pay due homage to him. His authority is recognized by all of them. A patriarchal family, according to this theory, is the most ancient social organization.

Gerda_Lerner's 1986 history classic, *The Creation of Patriarchy*, traces the development of the patriarchy to the second millennium B.C.E. in the middle east, putting gender relations at the center of the story of civilization's history. She argues that before this development, male dominance was not a feature of human society in general. Women were key to the maintenance of human society and community, but with a few exceptions, social and legal power was wielded by men.

Review of Literature

The problems faced by single mothers cannot often represent by one research method alone. To carry out an in-depth study of the problem of single mothers, we need to study the prior researches that have been done in this area.

Jayakody, R., & Stauffer, D. (2000), in their study mental health problems among single mothers: Implications for work and welfare reform they examined Welfare reform's emphasis on work and self-sufficiency assumes that poor single mothers are similar in their status and function to the rest of the population. However, the results showed that their status is quite distinct. Logistic regression results reveal that the likelihood of working is 25% lower for those with a psychiatric disorder. Mental health problems may prevent women from undertaking the tasks necessary to find employment, or women with these problems may lack the self-confidence needed to take on new challenges. Our findings suggest that mental health problems among single mothers deserve greater attention as a barrier to self-sufficiency and highlight the need for more effective intervention and treatment efforts to improve economic and social outcomes.

Biblarz, T. J., & Gottainer, G. (2000), in his study on the Family structure and children's success: A comparison of widowed and divorced single-mother families. Compared with children raised in single-mother families created by the death of the father, children raised in divorced single-mother families have significantly lower levels of education, occupational status, and happiness in adulthood. However, relative to widowed single mothers, divorced single mothers hold lower occupational positions, are more financially stressed, and have a higher rate of participation in the paid labor force. They speculate that the contrasting positions in the social structure of different types of single-mother families may account for observed differences in child outcomes.

Keating, R. et al. (2004) attempted to describe the Needs, concerns, and social support of single, low-income mothers and to evaluate social support mechanisms these mothers valued during the transition to parenthood. The qualitative analysis consisted of word and context interpretation from focus group data. The following themes resulted from the discussion: (a) transition: resilience, finding new direction, and an array of emotions and mixed feelings; (b) stress: loss, isolation, and barriers; and (c)

social support: positive and negative social support, and the need for informational, appraisal, emotional, and tangible support. Nursing interventions are discussed.

MacCallum, F., & Golombok, S. (2004), in their study children raised in fatherless families from infancy: A follow-up of children of lesbian and single heterosexual mothers at early adolescence, the researcher made an attempt to understand the quality of parent-child relationships and the psychological adjustment of children in female-headed families with no father present from infancy. Twenty-seven families headed by single heterosexual mothers and 20 families headed by lesbian mothers were compared with 36 two-parent heterosexual families as the child entered adulthood. Data were obtained from mothers and their young adult children through standardized interviews and questionnaires. The findings of this study showed that children raised by solo heterosexual mothers or lesbian mothers from infancy continue to function well as they enter adulthood.

Swain, P., & Pillai. V. (2005), in their study Living Arrangements among Single Mothers in India, they had focused on whether widow status in India influences the likelihood of household headship in India. The population of interest includes all single mothers, living with one or more of their children. The findings of the study showed that being a widow increases the likelihood of being a household head compared to the likelihood of household headship among the divorced and the separated in India. This study provided some evidence on the continuing social discrimination against widows in India.

Campbell, C. et al. (2005) studied to (a) assess and describe needs and concerns of single, low-income mothers during their transition to parenthood from the perspective of 16 Midwestern community leaders working closely with families and (b) evaluate social support mechanisms that are available for families. Focus group questions were organized around social support theory to gather information. The following themes evolved from focus group discussions: (a) social support, (b) personal barriers to success, and (c) system barriers. As a result, Community, health nursing strategies were identified that include assessment and interventions for this vulnerable population throughout their infants' 1st year of life and beyond.

Rani, N. (2006) attempted to understand Child Care by Poor Single Mothers. The study Revealed that Economic constraints, which was the major issue of mother headed family in a slum. Owing to financial restrictions, children from these families have fewer years of schooling and are more likely to

drop out of school. Absence of basic financial resources and lack of necessary social contacts act as hurdles in the placement of children either in the form of marriage in case of daughters or employment in case of male children. As regards the socialization of the children, the absence of father figure and the consequent role responsibilities of mothers have a significant impact on the growth of these children. The mothers due to lack of time are unable to spend time with children and encountered problems in disciplining them.

Ciabattari, T. (2007) examined work-family conflict among low-income, unmarried mothers. The researcher has examined how social capital affects work-family conflict and how both social capital and work-family conflict affect employment. Results show that social capital reduces unmarried mothers' reports of work-family conflict, especially for low-income women. Also, mothers who report high levels of work-family conflict are less likely to be employed. However, even at high levels of conflict, low-income women are more likely to be employed. The results suggest that work-family conflict has two consequences for unmarried women: it keeps them out of the labor force and makes it more difficult for women who want to work to maintain employment stability.

Tischler, M. (2008) studied about Resettlement and reintegration: Single mothers' reflections after homelessness and the study aimed to explore psychosocial issues related to the resettlement experiences of single mothers following a period of homelessness. Findings indicated that, despite exposure to major stressors, most women had begun the process of resettlement by improving their physical surroundings. Women had achieved personal growth as they had managed to escape violence, overcome homelessness, and create new opportunities for themselves and their children.

Kendig, S. M., & Bianchi, S. M. (2008) researched to examine single, cohabitating, and married mothers' time with children. Researchers had examined the relationship between family structure and maternal time with children among 4,309 married mothers and 1,821 single mothers with children less than 13 years of age. The outcomes were Single mothers spend less time with their children than married mothers, though the differences are not large. Marital status and living arrangement differences in time with children largely disappear, or single mothers engage in more childcare than married mothers after controls for socioeconomic status and other characteristics are introduced.

Lleras, C. (2008) had talked about Employment, work conditions, and the home environment in single-mother families. Multivariate analysis was conducted using data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth. The results indicated that employment status is not a significant predictor of the quality of the home environment among single mothers of young children when the family size and welfare use are controlled. Among single working mothers, several job conditions were related to the quality of the home environment. Single mothers who were employed part-time and in low-wage jobs had significantly poorer home environments. Single mothers who work nonstandard hours generally have poorer home environments, except rotating shifts.

Kotwal, N., & Prabhakar, B. (2009) studied to understand the Problems Faced by Single Mothers. The outcome of the study discovered that economic problem was the major stressor for the majority of single mothers. The feelings of the single mother were also affected by their single status. Most of the single mothers reported that they felt alone, vulnerable, hopeless, lack of identity, and lack of self-confidence. In social life, the majority of single mothers tried to stay away from attending social get-togethers and had changed their dressing style due to depression; they had to develop poor food and eating habits. The majority of single mothers found it hard to maintain discipline among the children due to the absence of male members. The mothers complained about loneliness, traumatic, and depression and found it difficult to handle the responsibility of childcare and to establish a routine for her children.

Cheesman (2010) studied the experience of single mother and resilience. The researcher reported that the single mother had been identified as a challenging role, with disadvantages, including economic crunch and poor mental health. The experience of single mothers in their multiple roles was diverse. The phenomena of resilience were experienced uniquely by every single mother, who was able to develop protective factors appropriate to their context while minimizing or at least acknowledging their relevant risk factors. They studied that participants developed protective factors that fit their individuality, context, and environment while various risk factors were either managed or minimized. Although these single mothers faced several challenges, they demonstrated their resourcefulness resulting in positive adaptation, thus, resilience.

Albirtton, C. (2010), in his study on working-class single mothers :Performing Middle Class Identity examined their unique positions between the poor and the middle class leads to interesting observations about how women at the boundaries do and perform class study explored that these women, while aware of the contradictions between their material realities and their symbolic realities, attempted to establish a middle-class sense of identity through consumption, concerted cultivation and associational distancing strategies. These findings indicate that class is a salient feature in the life of working-class single mothers and that they invoke strategies to maintain a sense of class identity and dignity.

Dufur, M. J. et al. (2010) examined differences in mothering and fathering behavior in single-parent households, where number of parents is held constant, and they have described individualist and structuralist perspectives for potential sex-based parenting behaviors. they compared 3,202 single mothers and 307 single fathers in the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study (Kindergarten Cohort). The results suggest that, although there are small differences in the parenting behaviors of single mothers and single fathers.

Takada, S. (2011) in his study factors determining the employment of single mothers. He analyzed the employment selections of single-mothers using the Survey of Employment Support for Single Mothers. The researcher suggested that employment support immediately after a woman becomes a single mother, that is, greater support to help those women obtain certifications in occupations currently in high demand is necessary for promoting employment among single mothers.

Brady, D &Burroway, R. (2012) examine the influence of individual characteristics and targeted and universal social policy on single-mother poverty with a multilevel analysis across 18 affluent Western democracies. The analyses show that single-mother poverty is a function of the household's employment, education, and age composition, and the presence of other adults in the household. The researcher finds out that two measures of universal social policy significantly reduce single-mother poverty. However, one measure of targeted social policy does not have significant effects, and another measure is significantly negative only when controlling for universal social policy. Moreover, the effects of universal social policy are larger.

Broussard al (2012) attempted to understand the Stressors and Coping Strategies Used by Single Mothers Living in Poverty. The results showed that these single mothers' stress and coping experiences tend to reflect the findings of research except that the low-income women in the study relieved stress and empowered themselves through volunteer work with other low-income individuals.

Kavas and Hosgor (2013) conducted a study to find out the challenges faced by single mothers. The study demonstrates that single mothers have to face numerous challenges, including the difficulty to maintain authority in their new family setting; the struggle to keep the sense of a complete family; and the experience of negative attitudes toward single mothers and their children.

Baranowska, A. et al. (2013) studied to understand the effects of single motherhood on happiness. The researcher used a mixed-method approach, first, based on in-depth interviews with mothers who gave birth while single. In a second step, they analyze panel survey data to quantify this influence. The results leave no doubt that, while raising a child outside of marriage poses many challenges, parenthood has some positive influence on a lone mother's life. Qualitative evidence shows that children are a central point in an unmarried woman's life. Quantitative evidence shows that, although the general level of happiness among unmarried women is lower than among their married counterparts, raising a child does not hurt their happiness.

Raymo, J. M. et al. (2014) in their Single study motherhood, living arrangements, and time with children in Japan they had examined relationships between single parenthood and mothers' time with children in Japan. They first demonstrated that time spent with children and the frequencies of shared dinners are significantly lower for single mothers than for their married counterparts. For single mothers living alone, less time with children reflects long work hours and work-related stress. Findings suggested that rising divorce rates and the associated growth in single-mother families may have a detrimental impact on parents' time with children in Japan.

Weldegabreal (2014) studied to find out the experiences of single mothers in raising their children. The study revealed that financial problems and psychological challenges were the main stressors for the majority of single mothers, while children of single parents receive little support in their educational engagement form their mothers and single mothers received limited support from community, neighborhood, government, and noon government organization. The study also suggests

that there is an urgent need to recognize the unique challenges of both the children of single-mother families and their mothers and calls for multifaceted interventions by both government and non-governmental organizations to help these groups of the society to cope-up with the psychological, financial and emotional problems.

Mohd Hashim, I. H. et al. (2015) discussed Stress, Roles, and Responsibilities of Single Mothers in Malaysia. The researcher had focused on how a group of single mothers in Malaysia views sources of stress and challenges in their lives. Moreover, it also investigates the perceived roles and responsibilities of single mothers. Three hundred single mothers from all over Malaysia were interviewed in this study. The result of this study revealed that Single mothers reported a relatively low level of stress that was mostly related to financial and day-to-day living. They, however, reported extensive roles and responsibilities. They also reported a high level of coping and particularly oriented towards solving the problems. Finally, their study highlighted the importance of continuing study and support, important but marginalized groups in society such as single mothers.

Golombok, S et al. (2016) studied on Single mother to find out the Mother-child relationships and children's psychological adjustment. In this study, 51 solo mother families were compared with 52 two-parent families all with a 4-9-year-old child conceived by donor insemination. Standardized interview, observational, and questionnaire measures of maternal wellbeing, mother-child relationships, and child adjustment were administered to mothers, children, and teachers. There were no differences in parenting quality between family types apart from lower mother-child conflict in solo mother families. Neither were their differences in child adjustment. Perceived financial difficulties, a child's gender, and parenting stress were associated with children's adjustment problems in both family types. The findings suggest that solo motherhood, in itself, does not result in psychological problems for children.

Hansen M, (2016) studied on the lived experiences of single lesbian mothers. The researcher attempted to find out what are the positive and negative experiences single lesbian mothers may face in raising their children. In terms of challenges participants faced as a single lesbian mother, finding revealed that lesbian minority stress affected the perceptions and lives of single lesbian mothers. The majority of participants were fearful of discrimination against themselves and their children. As a result, many

participants made changes to avoid discrimination, such as enrolling their child in a progressive school and not disclosing their sexual identity to others.

Mukhopadhyay, J. (2016) attempted to understand the Identity of 'Single Woman' in India the aim was to uncover the obstacles, which in particular raise the resentment of living concerning honor and respect of single women. Moreover, the study's purpose was also to suggest ways of overcoming obstacles and reaching the goal of freedom and fulfillment for these women. The study unravels an upcoming area of research as in a country rapidly undergoing transformation, patriarchal social pattern is still desperately trying to maintain its stronghold on the lives of women whose situation are different from the bulk of their clan and where a swiftly globalizing economy and modernizing society are opening new vistas of opportunities for these women, securing the identity of single women and their capacity building will be important in coming days.

Saranya, T.S. & Niges, K. (2017) discussed the Agony of single mothers of Kerala. In the study, the researchers focused on the mental health problem of depression on single mothers of Kerala. The study has been done on 60 mothers out of which 30 are married, and 30 are single mothers. The results of the study revealed that there is no significant relationship between socio-economic background and depression among mothers of Kerala. The study also revealed that marital status has a significant effect on depression among mothers. The findings of the study throw light into the agony of single mothers.

Meier, A. et al. (2017) studied about Mothering experiences: How single-parenthood and employment shift the valence. In their study, they attempted to understand emotions in mothering experiences and how these vary by key demographic factors: employment and partnership status. The study finds out that mothering experiences are generally associated with high levels of emotional well-being. Single mothers report less happiness and more sadness, stress, and fatigue in parenting than partnered mothers. This is concentrated among those single mothers who are not employed. Overall outcomes were few negative associations between employment and mothers' feelings in time with children, with the exception that employed mothers report more fatigue in parenting than those who are not employed.

Clark, S. et al. (2017) studied to understand who helps single mothers in Nairobi? The role of kin support. Using novel kinship data, this paper assesses the extent of support given by over 3,000

relatives to 462 single mothers living in a slum area of Nairobi, Kenya. The study unravels Contrary to stereotypes about families in sub-Saharan Africa, the active kin network of single mothers is relatively small, and nearly a fifth of mothers do not receive any financial or childcare assistance. Different types of kin offer different kinds of support according to culturally proscribed roles. However, support also depends heavily on kin's employment status, geographic proximity, and age.

Lee, Y., & Hofferth, S. L. (2017) studied the Gender differences in single parents Living and childcare time.They have examined gender differences in single parent's childcare time and whether the presence and gender of coresident adult kin moderate this association. The result they first found that single fathers spent slightly less time in all types of childcare except play than single mothers. gender differences in single parents' childcare time were larger in any childcare, play, and teaching when living with both adult female kin and male kin than when living without any kin. he presence of both female kin and male kin may relieve the parent of tasks gender-appropriate to the related household members.

Pollmann, M. (2018) in his research Single Motherhood and Life Satisfaction in Comparative Perspective: Do Institutional and Cultural Contexts Explain the Life Satisfaction Penalty for Single Mothers? He had focused on how broader institutional and cultural contexts shape the life satisfaction of single mothers — using data from the European Social Survey for 24 European countries. This study shows that generous family benefits, extensive childcare provision, and high levels of gender equality are associated with smaller life satisfaction penalties for single mothers, whereas societal attitudes toward single motherhood are not related to the life satisfaction of single mothers.

Widan R.J., & Greef A.P (2019), in this study Aspects of Social Support Associated with Adaptation in Middle-Class, Single-Mother Families they have talked about what aspects of social support are associated with adaptation in single-mother families? Semi-structured interviews were conducted, and questionnaires were completed. Qualitative analysis indicated two main sources, paid and unpaid support. The quantitative analysis confirmed the following adaptation resources: harnessing family and friend support; having friends as support; socializing with friends; receiving emotional support, practical help, and advice from friends. Significant differences were found between the family and friends' groups for socializing and obtaining financial aid as support.

Research Gap

The research gap is one of the major processes to enhance academic knowledge. To fulfill this objective, I have done review of literature after look at the prior studies, following research gaps have been found.

- Fulfill the knowledge gap in the sociological literature on single mothers.
- No empirical study has been done on single-mothers in Kanpur city.
- Most of the studies emphasizing only the condition of widows, but this study will be focused on all routes into single mothers: pre-marital pregnancy, separation, divorce, women who became single mothers by choice through IVF and adopting child and widowhood.
- Prior research has not tested for the moderating role of gender and age when examining the influence of parenting in single-mother families.

Statement of the Problem

Parenthood is challenging enough, even under the best of conditions. So, being a single mother especially in our society is tasking. This is because, with one parent, the challenges are multifold. The effect of single parenting is far-reaching because it does not only affect the parents; it also affects the children. The effects are more devastating on the part of the children because single parenthood leaves them with deep scars. Being a single mother is a very tough and challenging task in Indian society. The major problem in this research is to study the challenges of single mothers parenting child upbringing in Kanpur city. Over the past few years, researchers have observed that the number of current social problems in India has increased, with the most prevalent area being the presence of single-parent families. Many of these families in the community struggle to make ends meet and are unable to provide stable support in their households. As a result of this, their homes become broken, and being a single mother; they are unable to function properly as they are left alone to raise their child/children. Therefore, this research will be based on the issues and challenges faced by single mothers.

Significance of the study

In the present society, there is a necessity of the sociological study of women as there is the necessity of developing our nation. A woman is the primary caretaker of the family. The purpose of

socialization starts with mothers only. She has responsibilities of the family from a baby to an old person on her both shoulders. A woman is the only person who nurtures, develops, and strengthens the family. Women play many roles in the family as of a wife, mother, daughter, and sister, etc. she is the most sensible person, and she transfers the tradition from generation to generation to transfer culture and values of the society. Relatively some women are parenting their child or children alone.

The study of single mothers is important because it will focus on the challenges and issues faced by single mothers and their socio-economic status. The present study is meant to provide meaningful significance for policymakers and other stakeholders who are involved in areas of improvement of socio-economic livelihood of single mothers and their children in particular. Above all, it will pave a royal road in attracting many resources and intervention ventures which is supported by organizational responses that are guided and shaped by international, regional, and national standards. It will have an area in igniting further researches and mobilizing resources which brings practical utility by ultimately answering questions that are related the two main values of humanity that is; considering socio-economic needs as a universal human need which in turn helps to promote socio-economic justice.

The research questions of the study

The research questions of the present study are the following: -

1. How do single mothers support themselves in child-rearing?
2. What type of relationship exists among single mothers with their child/children?
3. What are the major problems facing by single mothers?
4. What challenges does a single mother have to face?
5. What are the issues faced by single mothers?

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows: -

1. To study the socio-economic status of the single mothers in Kanpur city.
2. To explore the relations between single mothers and their children.
3. To study the problem faced by single mothers with respect to age and gender of the child/children.
4. To examine the challenges faced by single mothers.

5. To examine the issues faced by single mothers.

Limitations of the Study

This study will be focused on a specific group of women in which researcher will include single mothers who are parenting their children without any partner. It is not applicable in all sections of the society.

Research Methodology

- **Research Design**: -The research design of the present study will be descriptive and exploratory, and a comparative method will be used for the study.
- **Research Area**: - The area of the study will be the selected area of Kanpur city.
- **The universe of the Study**: - All the single mothers residing in Kanpur city will constitute the universe of the study.
- **Unit of the study: -** single mothers will be the unit of the study.
- **Sources of data collection**: - Both primary and secondary sources of data collection will be used for the present study. Primary data will be collected by using self-made structured interview schedule, observation method and case study method from the units within the age group of beyond 18 years and secondary data will be collected by, NGO'S, books journals, newspaper, magazines, government records and various published and unpublished works, etc

Tentative Chapterization

Chapter 1

- Introduction
- Review of Literature
- Statement of the study
- Significance of the study
- Research questions
- Objectives
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Chapter 2

- Socio-economic background of the study

Chapter 3

- Existing relationship with single mothers and their children

Chapter 4

- Single mother's problem related to age and gender of their child/children

Chapter 5

- Issues and challenges faced by a single mother

❖ **Conclusion**

❖ **Appendix**

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